

## PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Every 2 ½ minutes a child is taken to the emergency room because they were hurt on a playground. Each year, over 200,000 children are injured on America's playgrounds. We are striving to reduce that number by following playground safety guidelines established by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). It is our hope that by using these standards and guidelines, we can increase the safety of our playgrounds and create public awareness of the playground safety problem. To be effective, we need the help of parents, state and public officials and other adults responsible for our playgrounds. By working closely together, we can make a difference. Let's keep kids SAFE!!!!

There are 12 main items to look for when dealing with safety on our playgrounds. I call them "***The Dirty Dozen***". During the next twelve months, we will look at "***The Dirty Dozen***" a little closer.

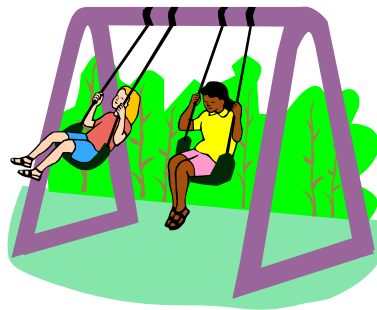


### IMPROPER PROTECTIVE SURFACING

The surface or area under and around the playground equipment should be soft enough to cushion a fall. Improper surfacing material under playground equipment is "THE LEADING CAUSE OF PLAYGROUND RELATED INJURIES".

Over 79% of all accidents on playgrounds are from children falling. Hard surfaces, concrete, blacktop, packed earth or grass are not acceptable under play equipment. A fall onto one of these surfaces "COULD BE LIFE THREATENING". Surfaces should be maintained at a depth of 12 inches, be free of standing water and debris and not allowed to become compacted.

Does your playground have a concern with Protective Surfacing? If so, please bring it to the attention of someone that monitors that playground.



**REMEMBER  
ALWAYS BE SAFE!**